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31 October 1997

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 61
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 28 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the extract on the question of Cyprus from the final communiqué of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, which took place in Edinburgh, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 24 to 27 October 1997.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-29696 (E) 031197

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ANNEX

Extract on the question of Cyprus from the final communiqué of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Edinburgh, from 24 to 27 October 1997

23. Heads of Government reaffirmed their support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. They called for the implementation of United Nations resolutions on Cyprus, in particular Security Council resolutions 365 (1974), 550 (1984) and 839 (1993). They regretted that negotiations on a solution have been at an impasse for too long and strongly supported the process of direct intercommunal talks under the United Nations Secretary-General's mission of good offices. They expressed concern about recent threats of use of force and integration of the occupied territory by Turkey and reiterated support for the demilitarization proposal of President Clerides. They called for the withdrawal of all Turkish forces and settlers, the return of the refugees to their homes, the restoration of and respect for human rights of all Cypriots and the accounting of all missing persons. They expressed concern and disappointment that progress had been impeded by the efforts of the Turkish Cypriot side to introduce preconditions to the talks and called for a cooperative attitude from all sides for the achievement of a comprehensive, just and workable settlement on the basis of a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation. While noting the existence of the Commonwealth Action Group on Cyprus, they welcomed the initiative of the Commonwealth Secretary-General to nominate an observer at the United Nations-sponsored negotiations. They recognized that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as a permanent member of the Security Council and as a guarantor Power, has a special position in this matter.

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S/1997/835
31 October 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 31 OCTOBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LIBERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present my compliments and, upon the instructions of my Government, to forward herewith a policy statement issued on 21 October 1997 on the situation in Sierra Leone (see annex).

I should be grateful if the statement could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) William BULL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-29726 (E) 031197

Annex

Statement concerning foreign policy on Sierra Leone issued on 21 October 1997 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Liberia

The Government of the Republic of Liberia views with major concern the 25 May 1997 military coup in the neighbouring State of Sierra Leone and the ongoing hostilities. Considering the successful implementation of the disarmament process and the holding of free and fair democratic elections, the need to consolidate peace and security in Liberia is of the highest national priority. It is the view of the Government that any military intensification of the crisis in Sierra Leone will have the potential of spilling into Liberia and Guinea and thus destabilizing the two neighbouring States and further exacerbating the humanitarian and refugee crisis in the region. Intelligence reports available to the Government of Liberia indicate that Armed Forces Revolutionary Council/Revolutionary United Front (AFRC/RUF) forces control major border points between Liberia and Sierra Leone and that the risk of hot pursuit into Liberia against Kamajors by the AFRC/RUF is high.

The Government of the Republic of Liberia therefore identifies the following national interest and foreign policy objectives with regard to the situation in neighbouring Sierra Leone: (a) peace and security; (b) humanitarian and refugee problems; (c) compliance with international law and agreements; (d) protection and promotion of democratization; and (e) conflict resolution:

(a) Peace and security. In order to contain the hostilities in Sierra Leone and to prevent a spillover into Liberia, the Government will direct the immediate closure of the Liberian border with Sierra Leone. Furthermore, the Government will not permit any military engagement involving the use of force out of its territory by any group against Sierra Leone, except where explicitly sanctioned by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and approved by the United Nations Security Council and the Government of Liberia;

(b) Humanitarian and refugee problems. Concerted efforts will be made to ensure access of humanitarian relief to refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as to ensure their safety and protection;

(c) Compliance with international law and agreement. The Government will ensure compliance with the principles of international law and support agreements reached on the Sierra Leone crisis by ECOWAS. In conformity with Security Council resolution 1132 (1997), the Government will take action with a view to implementing effectively the measures described in the resolution. Furthermore, any act of violation of the provisions of resolution 1132 (1997) will be reported to the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

(d) Protection and promotion of democratization. All efforts shall be made for the restoration of constitutional order in Sierra Leone. However, in order to avoid the intensification of hostilities and any spillover into neighbouring States, as well as in consideration of the ineffectiveness of the use of force in bringing lasting peace to Sierra Leone, the Government of the

Republic of Liberia will not support the use of force as a means to restore constitutional order, except where, as a last resort, it is decided by ECOWAS and approved by the Security Council. All parties are therefore urged to reach a political settlement in consonance with the expectations of the international community. The Government will therefore wholeheartedly assist in achieving a political settlement in Sierra Leone with the sole objective of restoring constitutional rule;

(e) Conflict resolution. Noting the initiatives undertaken in Abidjan, which led to the conclusion of the Abidjan Agreement, the Government supports the principles of the Agreement and encourages continuous dialogue on the basis of those principles to ensure sustainable peace and security in Sierra Leone.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

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3 November 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 2 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 9 (b) (i) OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991) ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The purpose of this letter is to inform you, and through you the members of the Security Council on 2 November, Iraq again violated its obligations by refusing to permit the entry into Iraq of UNSCOM personnel. These were the same personnel who were the subject of my letter to you of 30 October (S/1997/830).

The two UNSCOM personnel concerned were seeking to return to their normal place of work, the Commission's Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Centre (BMVC). On the arrival of the United Nations aircraft at Habbaniyah airfield on the morning of 2 November, Iraqi officials stated that the two personnel of United States nationality could not enter the country. In the circumstances, the two personnel returned to the Commission's Field Office in Bahrain while other non-US UNSCOM personnel proceeded to Baghdad. One officer of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), of United States nationality, who was not blocked from entry also returned to Bahrain, in conformity with the Agency's position that the two bodies charged with the task of ensuring the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction be afforded the same treatment by Iraq.

I would be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Richard BUTLER

97-29845 (E) 031197 041197

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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S/1997/837
3 November 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 3 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 9 (b) (i) OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991) ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to my letter of 2 November 1997 (S/1997/836), I should inform you, and through you the members of the Security Council, that on 3 November, on my instructions as Executive Chairman, teams of the Special Commission attempted to conduct their inspection work in Iraq. Three inspection teams (missile, chemical and biological) departed the Commission's Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Centre (BMVC) at 0830 hours local Baghdad time for separate inspections. The missile team was the first to reach its inspection site at 0850 hours.

On arrival at the site the Iraqi officials present stated that the inspection could proceed, but not with its personnel of United States nationality. The Chief Inspector of the missile monitoring team told the Iraqi officials that his mission could not proceed on such a basis.

I had given instructions that in the event of such a blockage by the Iraqis, the teams were to terminate their inspection efforts and return to BMVC. As such the teams that were still proceeding to their inspection sites also terminated their missions and returned to BMVC in accordance with my instruction.

I should take this opportunity to recall that in the letter of 29 October to you (S/1997/829), the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq stated some concerns his Government had about the U-2 high-altitude reconnaissance flights flown in support of the Special Commission's inspection and ongoing monitoring and verification work. The suggestion in that letter of 29 October that this work is done on behalf of a Government, and not solely in accordance with the mandate given to the Special Commission by the Security Council, is without foundation. Under these circumstances, I authorized the next U-2 mission and sent a standard letter of notification to the Iraqi authorities on 31 October.

I must inform the Council that I have received a letter dated 2 November from the Permanent Representative of Iraq which implicitly threatens the safety of this aircraft. I attach this letter for your information.

I would be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council. I stand ready to brief you and the members of the Council on these issues, should you or the members wish.

(Signed) Richard BUTLER

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 2 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission established by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 9 (b) (i) of Security Council resolution 687 (1991)

With reference to the letter dated 29 October 1997 from the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/829), I should like to affirm our stance concerning the U-2 aircraft as set forth in that letter and to draw your attention to it. Because of its importance, I deem it appropriate to recall it here again. The text in question states as follows:

> "I have explained in my letter dated 12 October 1997 addressed to you the question of the U-2 plane used by the Special Commission. The U-2 plane is an American spying plane which has been spying on Iraq and its leadership in order to execute America's hostile policy against Iraq under cover of the Special Commission's operations. It also provides the Special Commission with deliberately misleading information with a view to create problems and superficial crises as specifically happened in June and September 1997. We request that the Special Commission withdraw its cover from that spy plane flying over Iraqi skies and we stand ready to arrive at a neutral formula with the Special Commission, with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council, if there is a need for such activity. In my letter to you of 12 October 1997, I made proposals, such as replacing the U-2 plane by an Iraqi plane which is to be fully placed under the disposal of the Special Commission, or by using a plane belonging to a neutral State that has no special objectives against Iraq."

In the light of current developments, Iraq anticipates that the United States will engage in military aggression against it, as it has done on previous occasions. Accordingly, the entry of a United States spy plane into Iraqi airspace cannot be accepted. We therefore urge you to cancel the overflights scheduled for the U-2 aircraft on 5 and 7 November.

I hope it will be clear that you will bear the responsibility for the consequences that will ensue from any decision by you to send the spy plane to Iraq, especially in circumstances where our anti-aircraft defences are being activated everywhere and are being made ready to meet the possibility of aggression.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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S/1997/838
3 November 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 3 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 31 October 1997, addressed to you by His Excellency Dr. Blagoj Handziski, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, concerning the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force. I should be grateful if you would bring the contents of this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Naste CALOVSKI
Ambassador

97-29809 (E) 031197

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Annex

Letter dated 31 October 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia addressed to the Secretary-General

Allow me to present my compliments, and state our views in connection with the need for extending the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) stay in the Republic of Macedonia after 30 November 1997.

In your last report, presented on 11 August 1997 (S/1997/631), pursuant to Security Council resolution 1110 (1997) of 28 May 1997, the facts about the composition, deployment, strength and mandate of UNPREDEP, until then, are stated realistically and objectively.

Particularly important we consider your remarks that "it is evident that the situation in the country has been and still is intimately linked to the overall situation in the region, in particular at its borders. However, the host Government's relations with its neighbours have continued to strengthen, as have its relations with the other members of the international community. In addition, the country's active participation in a wide-range of international organizations and programmes, including the Partnership for Peace programme of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU) PHARE programme, are further signs of its enhanced international standing and capability" (S/1997/631, para. 21).

However, considering that you too, as stated in paragraph 23 of your report, agree that "the international community's involvement in the region will be necessary for some time to come, and given the request by the authorities of the host country to maintain an international presence ...", and that by this letter we renew that request, I would like to inform you of the most recent developments in the region.

They, unfortunately, support our argument that the stay of the UNPREDEP mission in the Republic of Macedonia should be continued after 30 November 1997:

- The rather intensive tensions in Montenegro, following the completion of the presidential elections there, could be a new source of destabilization of the region. Namely, the commitment of the new President to equal treatment of Montenegro as a federal unit of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, is being interpreted by some political forces in the Federation as an attempt for secession. This issue has been present ever since the days of the dissolution of former Yugoslavia. The different interpretation of that dissolution and the unresolved complex of issues and problems relating to it, have caused and still cause serious differences and tensions between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the other States - equal successors. That, certainly derives from the interpretation of official Belgrade that the dissolution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has come about by forceful secession of the four federal units, rather than as a result of their separation from the Federation established by free will, a fact well recognized by the international community;

- The Republic of Macedonia shares the concerns of the international community about the developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina resulting also from the slow implementation of the Dayton Accords, especially the civilian part. Regarding these developments, as well as the very implementation of the Dayton Accords, between the leaderships of the Bosnian Serbs there is disagreement and division, which, by themselves, pose a source of destabilization.

Though the international community has invested enormous efforts for the stabilization of the situation and there have been some positive results, as for example in the organization of the local elections, we believe that the basic generators of the crisis are still functioning and that there is still no guarantee that after the eventual withdrawal of the Stabilization Force (SFOR), in June 1998, the conflicts will not recur. Thus, the issue of the spilling over of these eventually renewed conflicts towards the south, also remains open;

- The still unresolved Kosovo issue now creates even greater tensions than those existing over the past. Particularly worrying are the illegal transfers of weapons from neighbouring Albania, and the clashes between illegally armed Kosovo Albanians and the representatives of the authorities there, that have taken place over the last several months. Not less worrying are the announcements for continuation and permanent holding of demonstration by the students - Albanians, of the University of Pristine.

We salute the efforts of the international community to encourage both sides, official Belgrade and the Kosovo alternative, to engage in dialogue and to reach a peaceful solution of this issue. However, as you know, on that plan no concrete step has been made and this open issue is, and can be, the most serious generator of overall crisis in the region;

- The new Government of Albania invests great efforts for the stabilization of the situation in the country, for restoring the public peace and order, for collecting the looted weapons, and on that plan there have been positive results, but they are still far from being satisfactory.

It is evident that the leadership of neighbouring Albania is not in the position, by its own potentials, to restore the police authorities and the armed forces, and especially the border units. This is the reason why our mutual border has not been guarded from the Albanian side, which has resulted in an increased number of illegal crossings of the border by large groups. This problem grew particularly complicated with the attempts of gangs of criminals, released from Albanian prisons, to establish channels for the illegal transfer of looted weapons to, and through, the Republic of Macedonia. This has caused a number of heavy incidents with our military border units and police forces, but also incidents with the representatives of UNPREDEP, at some of the observation points along that border.

Encouraging is the fact that the current Albanian leadership is aware of this situation but its inability, thus far, to establish a normal regime at the border portends that this situation could last for a longer period.

We salute the efforts of the international community to assist the Albanian authorities in the re-establishment of the police and military authorities and, this way, in the establishment of a normal regime at our mutual border.

The Republic of Macedonia, within its capabilities, has continually extended humanitarian and other kinds of relief to neighbouring Albania, as for example by putting at its disposal all the transport corridors and airports for the arrival of international relief to that country and by the organization over several months of the customs service for it.

One of the priorities of our Armed Forces, which are developed according to the concept of a small but efficient army, is the securing of the territorial integrity and the guarding of the borders of the State. In carrying out this duty the Armed Forces have had an outstanding cooperation with UNPREDEP, thus contributing to the stabilization of the situation at the northern and western borders and to the very success of the mission.

- In spite of the obligations undertaken pursuant to the Agreement on the regulation of relations and promotion of cooperation between the Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (S/1996/291, annex, appendix), and in spite of the fact that the inter-State border has been defined and existed as an inter-republic border within former Yugoslavia since 1944 until our gaining independence, the Yugoslav side has continually posed reasons for delaying its marking.

Nevertheless, we continue to invest efforts to end the process of marking the inter-State border. However, from the Yugoslav side, so far there have been no concrete steps on that plan, which further complicates the situation along the mutual border.

These assessments of ours, of the current political-security situation in the areas to the north and to the west of our borders, speak of the fact that the sources of destabilization of the region, and of my country for that matter, because of which the UNPREDEP mission was originally deployed, have not yet been eliminated.

It should be taken into account that these sources of instability require a longer period to be resolved.

But, we can conclude that there has been progress in devising initiatives and in strengthening the international community's engagement for the gradual overcoming of these sources of destabilization.

The further presence of UNPREDEP in the Republic of Macedonia can be of decisive importance for the success of these initiatives, since the mission has permanently acted as a factor of deterrence and does have a mandate conducive to the achievement of their goals.

We salute the progress on the plan of the transformation of the region into a region of lasting peace, stability, security and cooperation, resulting from the joint initiative of the countries of south-eastern Europe which are full

members of the Euro-Atlantic security structures or committed to their sooner integration in them.

Should, over the following year, the initiatives of the international community to resolve some of the aforementioned open issues, by way of dialogue, begin to give results, we expect that there will be a more significant progress in overcoming these sources of destabilization of the region. The presence of UNPREDEP until the end of that period, which could extend over the following 12 months, is instrumental for this purpose.

Considering all of this, we believe that the extension of the stay of UNPREDEP in the Republic of Macedonia is necessary for such a period, with the current mandate and composition.

(Signed) Blagoj HANDZISKI

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10 November 1997

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LETTER DATED 3 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Corrigendum

Page 2, annex, fifth paragraph, first subparagraph, lines 11 and 12

For the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia read the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

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97-30863 (E) 101197